

Think, again, of \mathbf{F} as indicating the velocity of a fluid flowing.

- $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{T} ds = \int_C M dx + N dy$ is the “flow of \mathbf{F} along the curve C ”.

If C is a loop then this is the circulation of \mathbf{F} around C .

Recall that \mathbf{T} is a unit tangent vector, and $\mathbf{T} ds = \begin{bmatrix} dx \\ dy \end{bmatrix}$.

- $\int_C \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} ds = \int_C M dy - N dx$ is the “flux of \mathbf{F} across C ”.

That is, the rate at which the fluid is entering or leaving the region enclosed by C .

Note that, since $\begin{bmatrix} dx \\ dy \end{bmatrix}$ is tangent to C , the vector $\begin{bmatrix} dy \\ -dx \end{bmatrix}$ is normal (and pointing outwards if motion is counterclockwise) of length $\sqrt{dy^2 + (-dx)^2} = ds$. Hence, $\mathbf{n} ds = \begin{bmatrix} dy \\ -dx \end{bmatrix}$.

Theorem 155. (Green’s Theorem, curl and divergence form) Let R be a 2D region enclosed by a simple loop C , oriented counterclockwise. $\mathbf{F} = M\mathbf{i} + N\mathbf{j}$.

$$\oint_C \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} ds = \iint_R \underbrace{\text{div } \mathbf{F}}_{=M_x + N_y} dx dy, \quad \oint_C \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{T} ds = \iint_R \underbrace{(\text{curl } \mathbf{F}) \cdot \mathbf{k}}_{=N_x - M_y} dx dy$$

Fine print: C piecewise smooth; M, N have continuous partial derivatives in an open region containing R .

The divergence form states that the outward flux of \mathbf{F} across C can be computed by adding up all sources and sinks inside the region.

The curl form says that microscopic rotation adds up to the overall circulation of \mathbf{F} around C .

Both interpretations of Green’s Theorem generalize to 3D (in very different ways):

Theorem 156. (Stokes’ Theorem) Let S be a surface enclosed by a simple loop C .

$$\oint_C \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{T} ds = \iint_S (\text{curl } \mathbf{F}) \cdot \mathbf{n} d\sigma$$

Fine print: C piecewise smooth; components of \mathbf{F} have continuous partial derivatives in an open region containing S .

- Note that we get Green’s Theorem as a special case of Stokes’ Theorem.
- Just like line integrals $ds = \|\mathbf{r}'\| dt$, the surface integrals $d\sigma$ can be computed using a parametrization $\mathbf{r}(t, u)$ of the surface. Indeed, $d\sigma = \|\mathbf{r}_t \times \mathbf{r}_u\| dt du$.

Recall that $\|\mathbf{r}_t \times \mathbf{r}_u\|$ is the area of the parallelogram with sides \mathbf{r}_t and \mathbf{r}_u .

Theorem 157. (Divergence Theorem) Let S be a (closed) surface enclosing a region D .

$$\iint_S \mathbf{F} \cdot \mathbf{n} d\sigma = \iiint_D \text{div } \mathbf{F} dV$$

Fine print: S piecewise smooth; components of \mathbf{F} have continuous partial derivatives in an open region containing D .

Concluding comments. For all of these integral theorems (Green’s Theorem, Stokes’ Theorem, Divergence Theorem) the integral of a differential operator acting on a field over a region R equals an appropriate sum of the field components over the boundary of R . In fact, in the language of differential forms, all of them are subsumed by the (generalized) Stokes’ Theorem

$$\int_{\partial\Omega} \omega = \int_{\Omega} d\omega.$$